

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not disclose or render obvious, after providing awards associated with award groups in which all of the indicators have been accumulated, randomly determining whether to end the single play of the game, if it is randomly determined not to end single game play, resetting the indicators and providing an additional opportunity to win an award by accumulating indicators in at least one of the award groups that includes award groups associated with previous awards, in combination with the other claimed limitations.

Nor, does the prior art disclose or render obvious, when all of the indicators been accumulated in at least one of the award groups, indicate the awards and randomly determine whether to provide the awards to the player, if it is determined not to provide the indicated awards to the player, reset the indicators and repeat the game process until it is randomly determined to provide accumulated and indicated awards to the player, in combination with the other claim limitations.

Specifically, Claypole discloses a wagering game with a trail & moving indicator wherein when the indicator reaches a certain level on the trail, a player plays a top game by pressing a “gamble” button.

However, since the player must “gamble” to play the top game, Claypole does not disclose the occurrence of the entire game for a single wager in a single game play. Since LeMay teaches a bonus game which is a separate game, it does not teach the claimed accumulation occurring in a single play of the game.

Moreover, since Vancura merely teaches randomly determining when to end a game, it does not cure the shortcomings of Claypole & LeMay, discussed above. Additionally, Vancura's random determination of ending game play does not equate to a random determination of providing already accumulated awards to the player.

Hence, claims 1-56 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to OMKAR A. DEODHAR whose telephone number is (571)272-1647. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on 571-272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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